

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 AGR-20 NEA-10 DRC-01 /218 W

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R 270935Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 246

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ENRG, JA

SUBJECT: MARCH OIL CONSUMPTION CONTROLS IN JAPAN

REF: TOKYO 2342 B) TOKYO 0601

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY: GOJ HAS DECIDED ON ENERGY CONSUMPTION CONTROLS FOR MARCH WHICH WILL BE SOMEWHAT MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN EXPECTED BECAUSE OF ANTI-INFLATION RATHER THAN OIL SHORTAGE CONSIDERATIONS. MAXIMUM RESTRICTIONS (ABOUT 15PERCENT LESS THAN PLANNED MARCH ENERGY CONSUMPTION WILL APPLY TO AUTO, CONSTRUCTION, HOME APPLIANCE, AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES. WILL BE REDUCED FROM FEBRUARY LEVELS OF 15 PERCENT TO ABOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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10 PERCENT LESS THAN PLANNED MARCH CONSUMPTION. END

SUMMARY.

1. NEW OIL CONSUMPTION RESTRICTIONS FOR MARCH WILL BE
AS FOLLOWS:

BELOW 1973
(PERCENT MARCH LEVELS)
FEBRUARY MARCH

RATES RATES

I. WATER-SUPPLY, MEDICAL, EXEMPTION
SOCIAL WELFARE, SCHOOLS, POLICE,
COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.
TRANSPORTATION

II TRANSPORTATION FARMING, FISHING, DETERGENTS, O OR 5
TOILET PAPER, FOOD PROCESSING, ETC.

III. GENERAL MANUFACTURING IN-
CLUDING MINING, TEXTILES, WOOD-
13 8
PROCESSING, CHEMICALS, STEEL,
METAL MANUFACTURES, MACHINERY
(OTHER THAN ELECTRIC HOME AP-
PLIANCES AND PASSENGER CARS).

IV. PASSENGER CARS, HOME ELECTRIC 13 13
APPLIANCES, CONSTRUCTIONS, BANKING,
INSURANCE, WHOLE - RETAIL SERVICES,
OTHER SERVICES.

2. ELECTRIC RESTRICTIONS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:
CATEGORY (PERCENTAGE BELOW OCTOBER
1973 LEVELS)

FEBRUARY MARCH

I. SAME AS OIL RESTRICTIONS. EXEMPTION
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II. PUBLIC TRANSPORT FACILITIES, 5 0

III. TELEVISION BROADCASTING 10 RO 15 10
PRINTING-PUBLISHING, TEXTILES,
LUMBER, PAER-PULP, CHEMICAL,,
STEEL, METAL MANUFACTURES,
MACHINERY (OTHER THAN ELECTRIC

HOME APPLIANCES AND PASSENGER CARS).

IV. SAME AS OIL RESTRICTIONS. 15 15

DISTINCTION SHOULD BE MADE BETWEEN REDUCTIONS IN CONSUMPTION BELOW PLANNED LEVELS AND BELOW PREVIOUS LEVELS OF CONSUMPTION. MOST OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION, AS WELL AS FIGURES BY MITI IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBASSY (REF A) RELATED TO CONSUMPTION REDUCTIONS BELOW PLANNED LEVELS, WHEREAS MITI REGULATIONS WRITTEN IN TERMS OF COMPARISON TO CONSUMPTION IN EARLIER PERIODS. THUS, EXAMPLE MITI ESTIMATES THAT MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES (CATEGORY III) WILL BE CUTBACK BY 10PERCENT OF PLANNED ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN MARCH. REGULATIONS, HOWEVER, READ 8PERCENT BELOW ACTUAL MARCH 1973 CONSUMPTION IN CASE OF OIL, AND 10PERCENT BELOW OCTOBER 1973 CONSUMPTION IN CASE OF ELECTRICITY.

3. RE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF RESTRICTIONS, PUBLICLY RELEASED MITI FIGURES INDICATE THAT CONTROL PROGRAM IN FEBRUARY OF THE YEAR HELD OIL AND POWER CONSUMPTION DOWN TO ABOUT 1PERCENT OVER FEBRUARY 1973 LEVEL. WITH RELAXATION OF CONTROLS, MARCH POWER AND ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION IS ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 3.5PERCENT OVER MARCH 1973 CONSUMPTION.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. CONSIDERATION WITHIN GOJ OF PETROLEUM CONSUMPTION CONTROLS FOR MARCH HAS PROVEN TO BE UNUSUALLY STORMY.

AT TIME REFTEL (A) PREPARED, MITI CLEARLY EXPECTED ITS RECOMMENDATION FOR GENERAL RELAXATION OF CONSUMPTION CONTROLS FROM 15PERCENT OF PLANNED LEVELS TO BE RUBBER STAMPED BY OTHER MINISTRIES. AT INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING OF FEB. 23, THAT PROVED NOT TO BE CASE. ACCORDING TO MITI OFFICIALS, MOF INSISTED THAT CONTROLS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AT PRESENT LEVEL FOR ANTI-INFLATION REASONS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOWEVER, LDP LEADERS INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF SUPPORTED MOF ARGUMENT FOR CONTINUATION OF TIGHT CONTROLS ON ENERGY USE BY SOME KEY PRODUCING SECTORS. MITI THUS FORCED TO RETREAT SOMEWHAT FROM ITS EARLIER POSITION THAT ONLY SERVICE INDUSTRIES WOULD BE INCLUDED IN MOST RESTRICTIVE CATEGORY, AND TO ACCEPT CONTINUATION OF MAXIMUM CONTROLS ON CONSTRUCTION, AUTO, AND HOME APPLIANCE SECTORS. SHOESMITH

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